Tropical Update

5:00 PM EDT

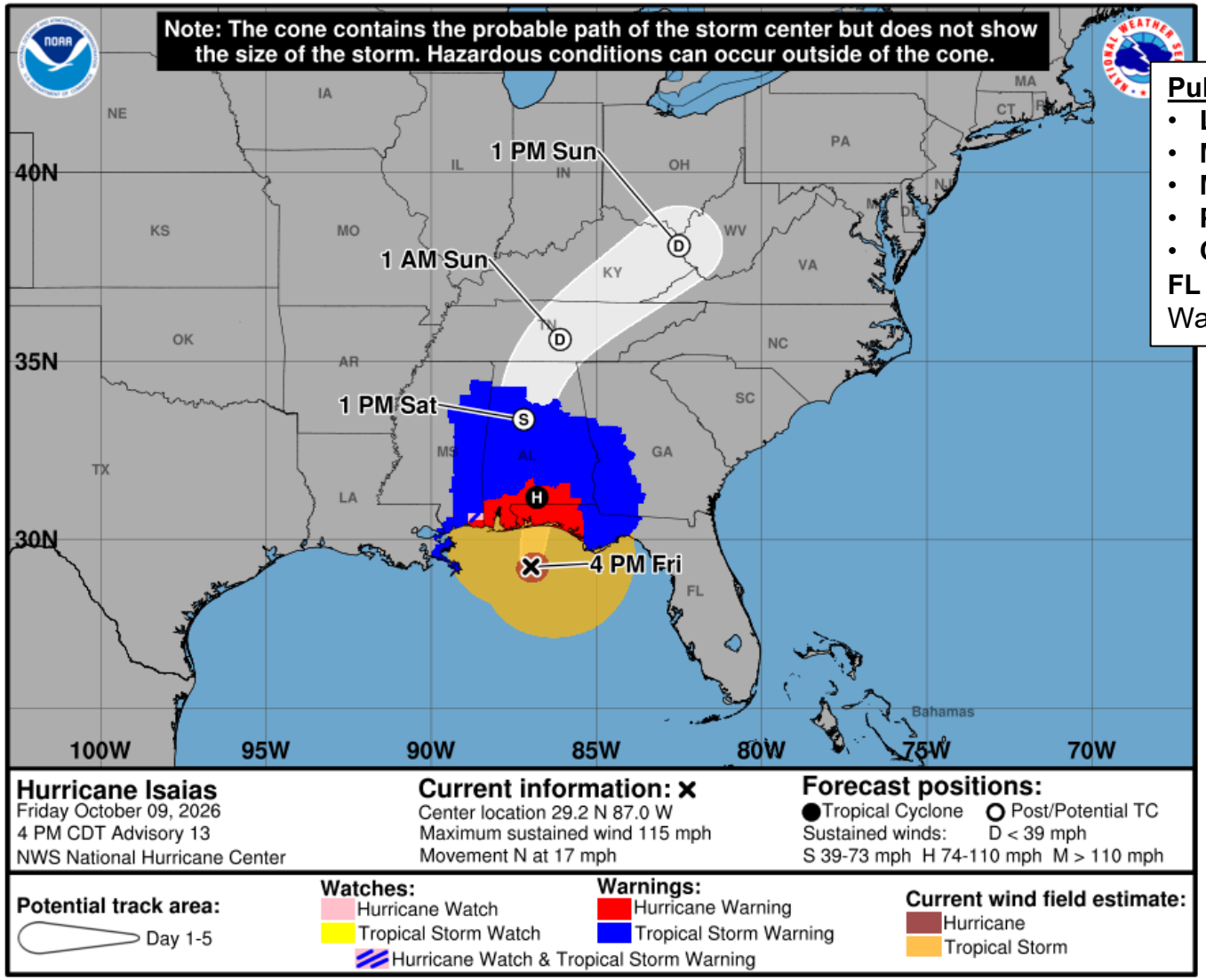
Friday, October 9, 2026

Major Hurricane Isaias to make landfall tonight in the Western Florida Panhandle; Major Impacts Expected; Conditions to Deteriorate Throughout the Night in North Florida.

This update is intended for government and emergency response officials, and is provided for informational and situational awareness purposes only. Forecast conditions are subject to change based on a variety of environmental factors. For additional information, or for any life safety concerns with an active weather event please contact your County Emergency Management or Public Safety Office, local National Weather Service forecast office, or visit the National Hurricane Center website at www.hurricanes.gov.

Major Hurricane Isaias

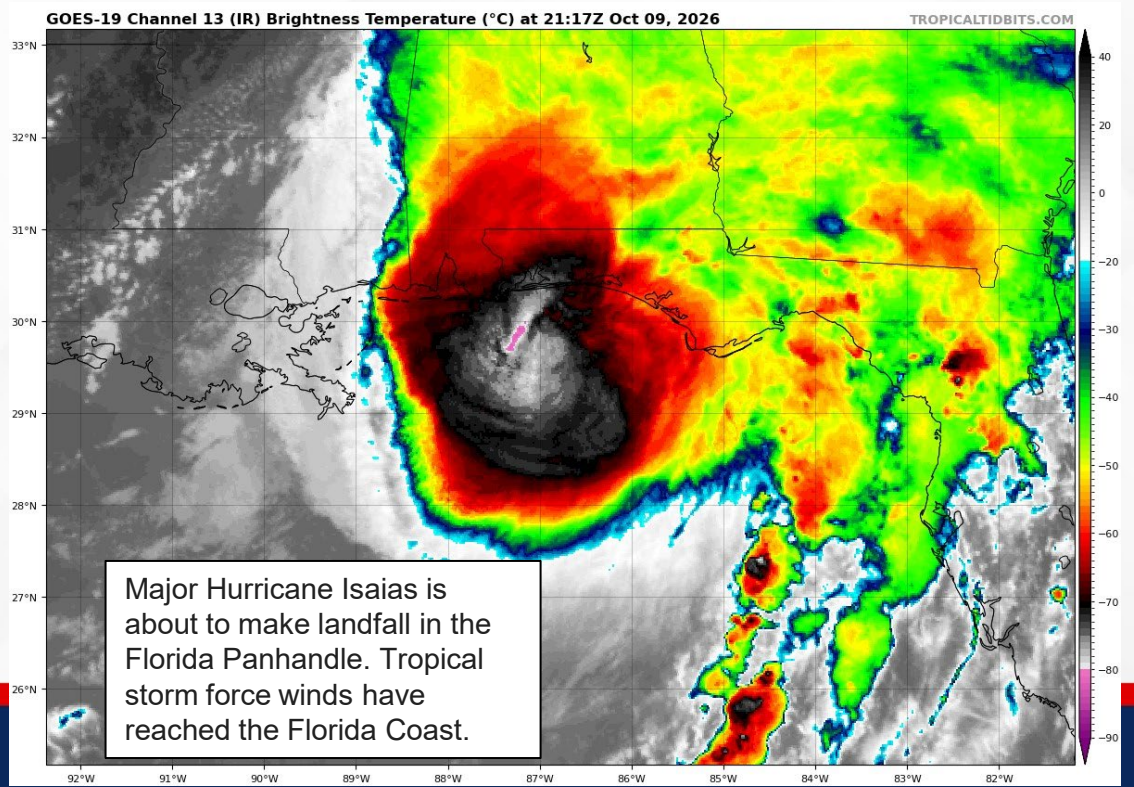
From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



Public Advisory #13 (valid 5:00PM EDT/4:00PM CDT):

- **Location:** 90 MI S of Pensacola, Florida
- **Maximum Sustained Winds:** 115 mph
- **Minimum Central Pressure:** 959mb
- **Peak Forecast Intensity:** 115mph on 10/9 2100z (Category 3)
- **Current Movement:** N 17 mph

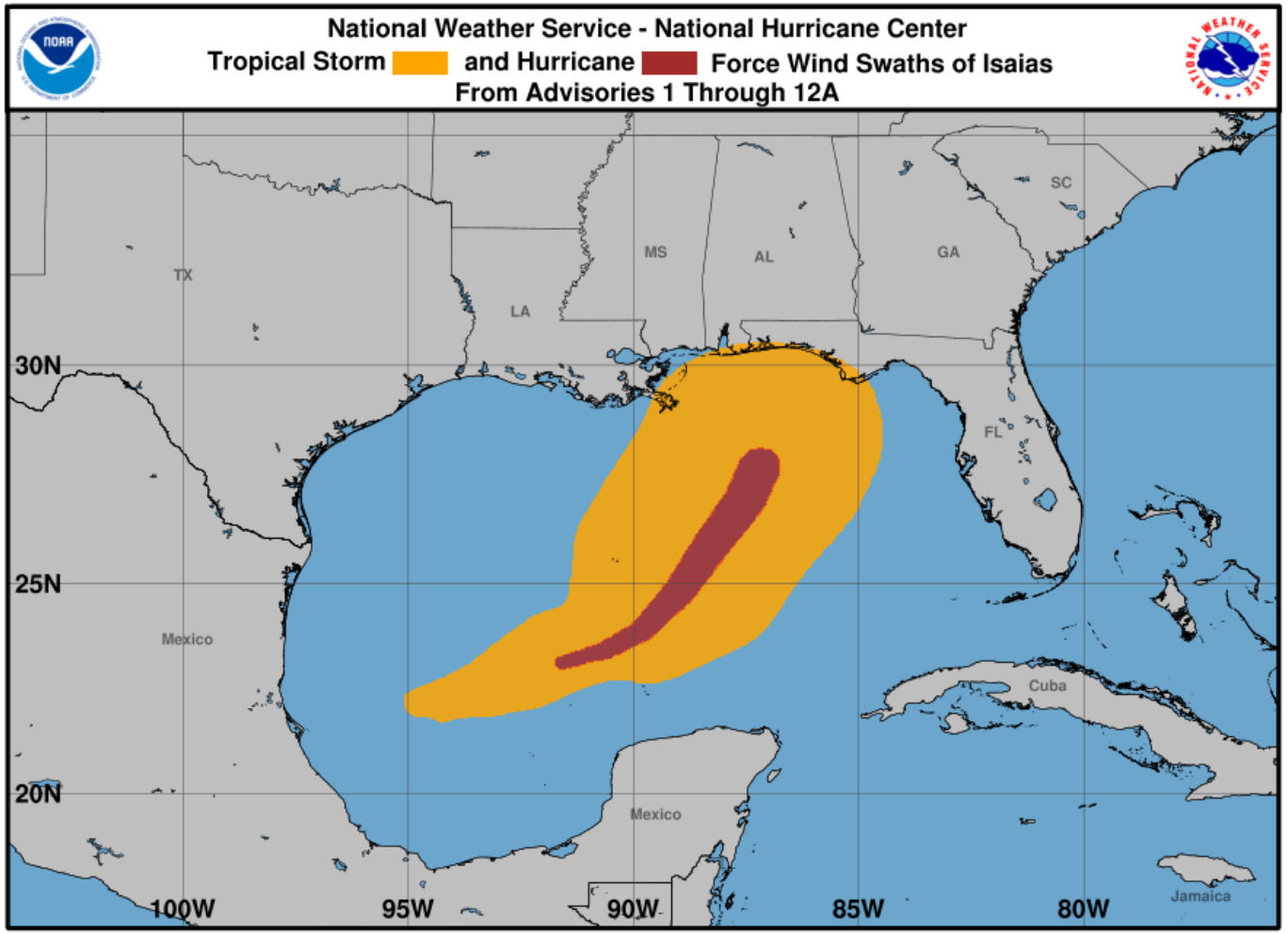
FL Watches/Warnings: Hurricane Warning, Tropical Storm Warning, Storm Surge Warning



FOUO – For Government Official Use Only

Major Hurricane Isaias Wind Swath

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)

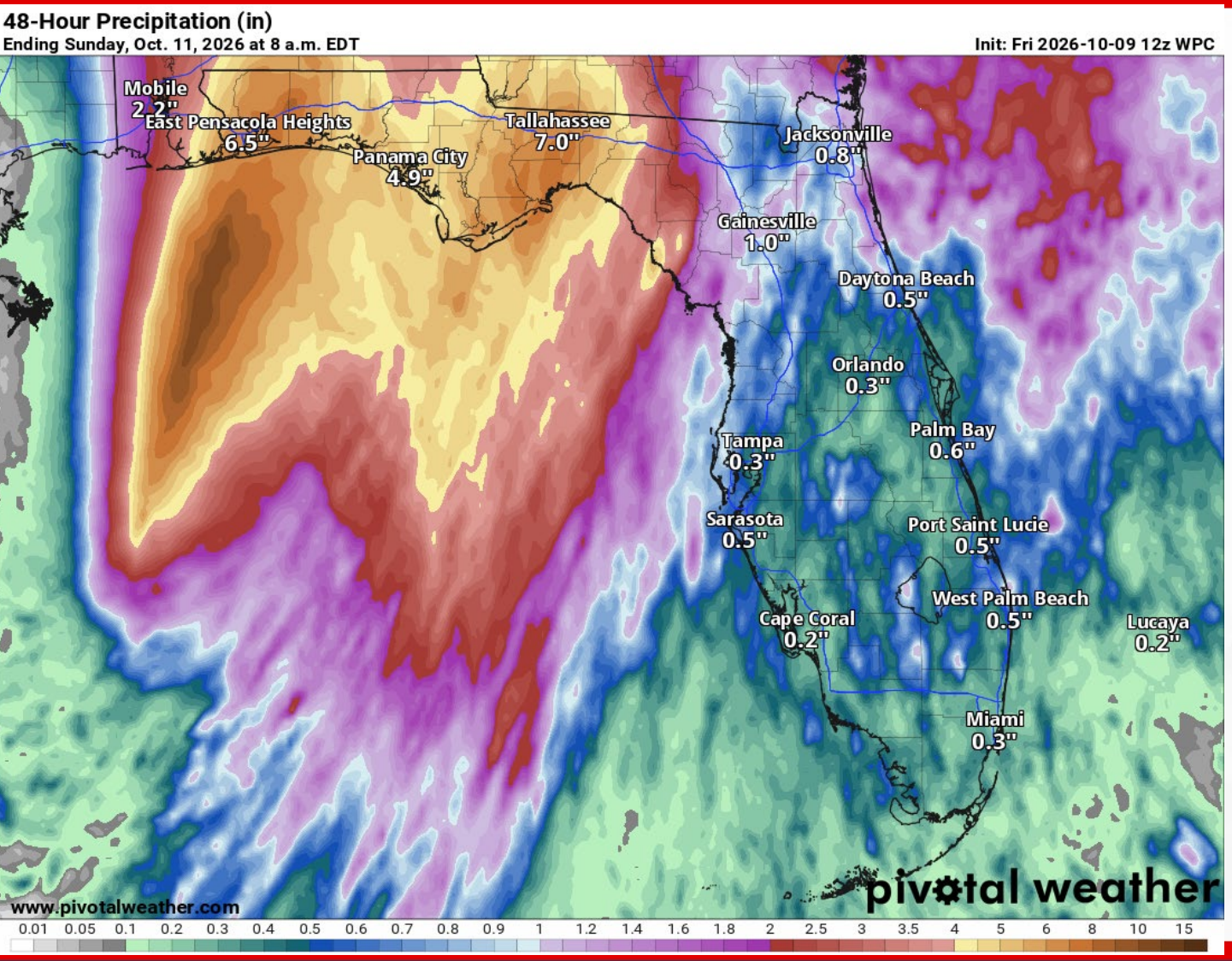


Sustained tropical storm force winds are being felt across the Coastal Panhandle.

Tropical storm force gusts are being felt across the inland Florida Panhandle in squalls moving onshore currently.

Forecast Rainfall

From the Weather Prediction Center (WPC)

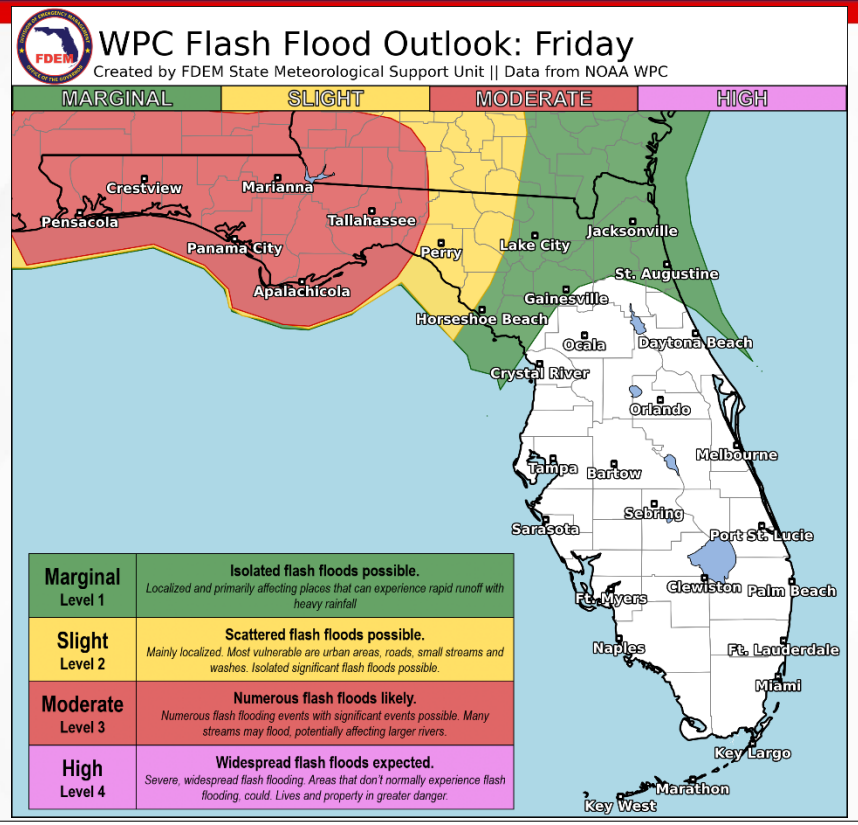


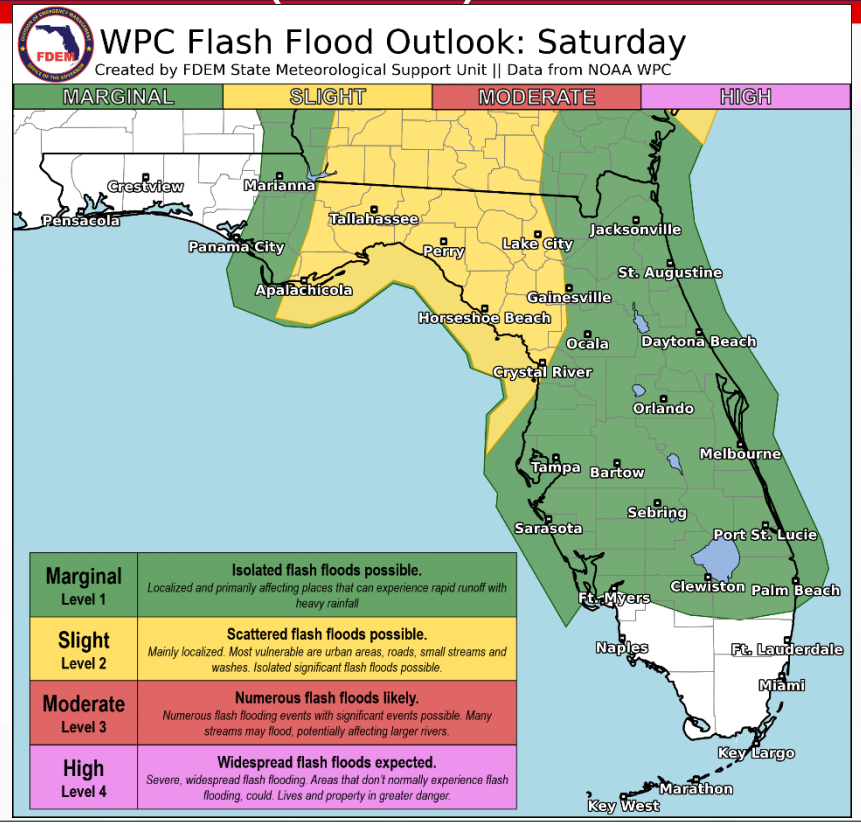
Widespread additional rainfall accumulations of **5-10”** could impact areas of the West Panhandle that already saw significant rainfall in the last couple of days. Most rainfall will fall to the east of the storm’s landfall location under an increasing westerly shear. Isolated areas could see rainfall accumulations of **15+”**, especially across the Florida Big Bend.

FOUO – For Government Official Use Only

Excessive Rainfall Outlooks

From the Weather Prediction Center (WPC)



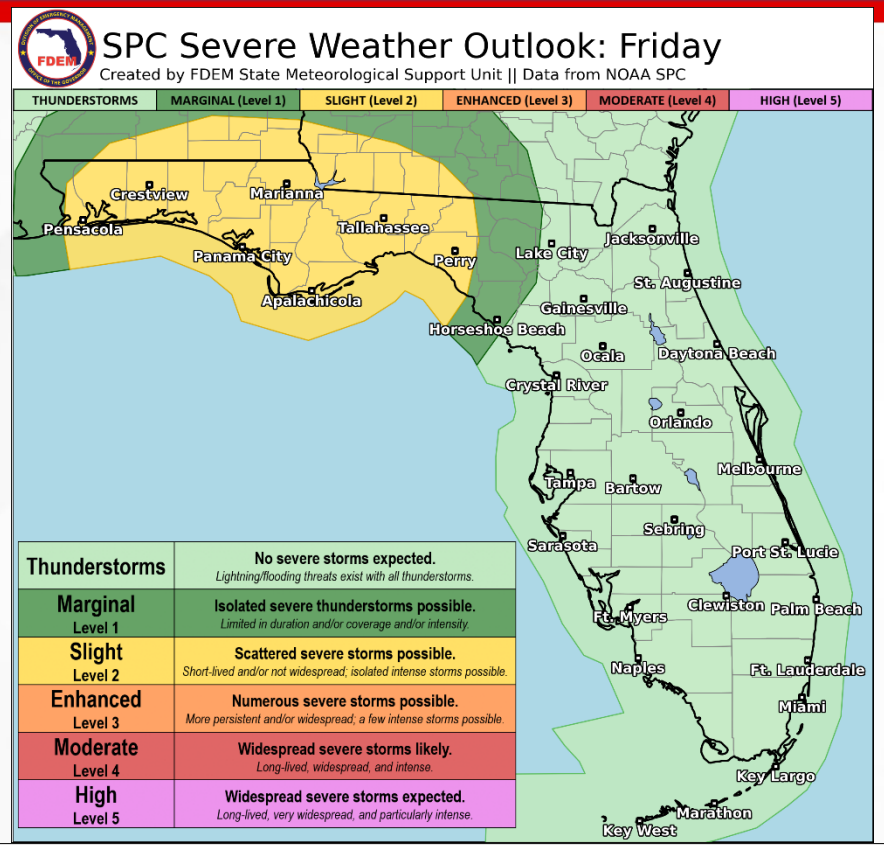


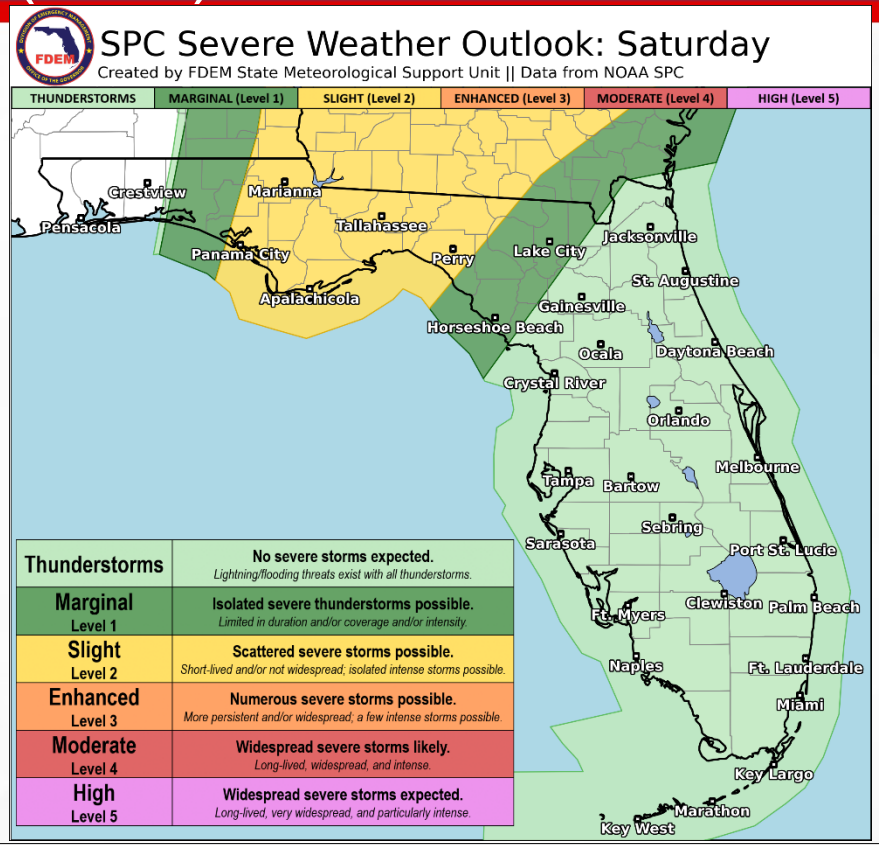
The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) has outlooked a **Moderate Risk (level 3 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across Panhandle locations from Jefferson County for today and tonight. A **Marginal to Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** outlooked across the remainder of the Florida Big Bend and Northeast Florida. On Saturday, a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked for a vertical stretch in the Florida Big Bend, anticipating a vertically oriented band setting up as the system pulls away on Saturday. A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked for areas for the majority of the Peninsula. The anticipated flash flooding threat this weekend is set to fall over areas that experienced widespread heavy rainfall this past weekend, exasperating the considerable flash flooding threat.

FOUO – For Government Official Use Only

Severe Weather

From the Storm Prediction Center (SPC)





Hurricane Isaias will be encountering an area of increasingly strong shear. While this may help weaken the system up to landfall, it may also help bolster the severe weather threat. Severe weather threat will be maximized on the east side of the storm and primarily be driven by the threat of tornadoes. The Storm Prediction Center has outlooked a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** west of Jefferson county. and a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** is outlooked for a vertical stretch from the eastern Florida Panhandle into the Florida Big Bend, anticipating a vertically oriented band setting up as the system pulls away on Saturday.

Key Messages
From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)

Key Messages for Hurricane Isaias
Advisory 12: 10:00 AM CDT Fri Oct 09, 2026

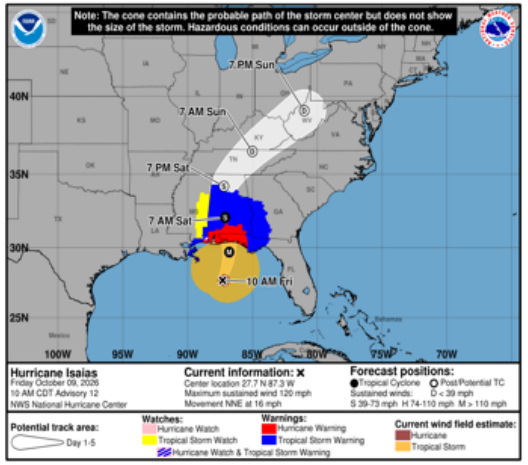
1. A life-threatening storm surge is expected from the Mouth of the Mississippi River to Suwannee, Florida. Residents under evacuation orders should leave immediately and follow advice from local officials.

2. Extremely dangerous and damaging hurricane force-winds are expected over portions of the Florida Panhandle, southern Alabama, and southern Mississippi where a Hurricane Warning is in effect. Residents in these areas should have a safe room to ride out the storm and prepare for long-duration power outages.

3. Damaging wind gusts are likely over a large portion of the southeastern United States from western and northern Georgia westward over much of central and northern Alabama, southern middle Tennessee, and Mississippi, especially in areas of higher terrain. Residents should secure loose outdoor items, avoid driving high-profile vehicles, prepare for power outages, and be aware of the potential for falling trees.

4. Isaias will bring areas of heavy rainfall to the central U.S. Gulf coast and much of the Southeast through the weekend. Considerable flash and urban flooding, and significant river flooding, are possible.

5. The tornado potential will increase this afternoon and continue through tonight. The greatest risk will be east of the center, particularly across the Florida Panhandle into southern Georgia. This risk will continue spreading north-northeast across parts of the Southeast on Saturday.



For more information go to hurricanes.gov

Summary

Major Hurricane Isaias (Central Gulf; 5:00PM EDT / 4:00PM CDT):

- Hurricane Isaias is a major hurricane - category 3 hurricane in the North Central Gulf.
- Isaias is located 90 miles S of Pensacola, moving to the north at 17 mph.
- Isaias has maximum sustained winds of 115mph and a minimum central pressure of 959mb.
- Major Hurricane Isaias is expected to make landfall this evening between 10 pm and midnight along the Western Florida Panhandle.
- ***Direct impacts, including destructive winds, storm surge, heavy rainfall, and tornadoes are expected across the Florida Panhandle.***

Summary:

- Landfall is expected in the Western Florida Panhandle.
  - Confidence in this scenario is very high.
- Hurricane Isaias is a major hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 115 mph. While some weakening may occur in the couple hours prior to landfall, Isaias may make landfall as a major hurricane. There is NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE between a strong category 2 and low end category 3 hurricane.
- Direct impacts, including destructive winds, storm surge, heavy rainfall, and tornadoes are expected across the Florida Panhandle.
  - Additional rainfall accumulations of **5-10"+** are expected across the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend that already saw significant rainfall in the last couple of days. For today, a **Moderate Risk (level 3 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked across Panhandle locations from Jefferson County westward. On Saturday, a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked for a vertical stretch in the Central Panhandle and Florida Big Bend, anticipating a vertically oriented band setting up as the system pulls away on Saturday. Severe weather, particularly tornadoes, are expected across portions of the Florida Panhandle on Friday and Saturday.

Tropical Update

FOUO – For Government Official Use Only

Created by:

Kelly Godsey – National Weather Service Emergency Response Specialist – Meterologist/Hydrologist

Kelly.Godsey@noaa.gov

State Meteorological Support Unit

Florida Division of Emergency Management

Users wishing to subscribe (approval pending) to this distribution list, register at:
https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEM/subscriber/new?topic_id=SERT_Met_Tropics.
Other reports available for subscription are available at:
https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEM/subscriber/new?preferences=true